

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination and search of the subject patent application.

Claims 25-29, 31-35 and 45 are pending. Claims 1-24, 30 and 36-44 have been canceled. Claims 25, 29, 31, 32, 34 and 35 are currently amended. New claim 45 has been added.

The making final of the restriction requirement is noted. Claims 36-44 are hereby canceled. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application to the canceled claims.

Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 25-35 as being anticipated by Taniguchi et al. (US6,489,676) is requested based on the following paragraph.

Please see the attached 1.131 Declaration, which is being submitted to swear behind the reference US6,489,676. With submission of the 1.131 Declaration, the reference is removed as prior art and the rejection is believed moot.

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit independent claim 25 patently distinguishes over the prior art references, and should be allowed.

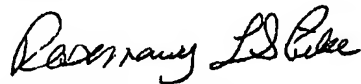
For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 26-29, 31-35 and 45 patently define over the prior art as well.

CONCLUSION

Some or all of the pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims and of the application as a whole is respectfully requested.

It is requested that should the Examiner not find that the Claims are now Allowable that the Examiner call the undersigned at 845-452-5863 to overcome any problems preventing allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: 1.131 Declaration